



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
THOMAS M. MENINO

September 28, 2006

Mr. Enrique Lamas
Chief, Population Division
U.S. Census Bureau
4700 Silver Hill Road
Federal Office Building #3, Room 2327
Suitland, MD 20746
Attention: Administrative Records and Methodology Research Branch

Dear Mr. Lamas:

As Mayor of Boston, I write to serve official notification that the City of Boston challenges the population estimate issued in June of 2006 by the U.S. Census Bureau for the date of July 1, 2005. In preparing this challenge, we have considered your agency's Review Guide for Local Population Estimates.

Attached please find a concise memorandum outlining our argument for revising both the population estimate and the methodology by which your agency generates this estimate. Also attached are completed worksheets with the data and records requested.

In short, the process by which you generate population estimates fails to accommodate the level of detail that is available in our local records of dormitory construction, housing demolitions, and housing units gained through adaptive re-use of non-residential structures. The aggregate effect of these incomplete analyses is the erroneous indication that Boston is experiencing a significant annual loss of population.

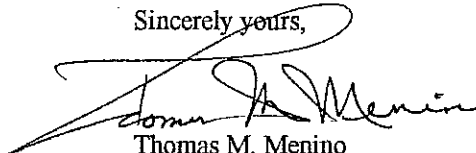
History supports my analysis of your methodology's shortcomings and deepens my concern about their continued application. During the 1990s, the Census Bureau's annual estimates indicated population loss in Boston for almost every individual year. But your official enumeration of population for the year 2000 demonstrated that Boston's population increased 2.6% during the decade.

Census Bureau miscalculations are troublesome because they are read by drivers of the local economy as signs that the sky is falling – when in fact it is not. This misperception affects investment levels and has a negative impact on the city's vitality.

I sincerely believe that our evidence will demonstrate that a higher population estimate is indeed warranted. I hope that you will review this challenge and the supporting evidence and attempt to resolve this disputed population estimate either through an informal procedure or through a formal challenge hearing process.

I am confident that we share the goal of determining the most accurate population estimate for Boston. My staff and I look forward to working cooperatively with you over the course of the next few months to resolve this challenge.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas M. Menino
Mayor of Boston



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
THOMAS M. MENINO

September 28, 2006

Mr. Enrique Lamas
Chief, Population Division
U.S. Census Bureau
4700 Silver Hill Road
Federal Office Building #3, Room 2327
Suitland, MD 20746
Attention: Administrative Records and Methodology Research Branch

Dear Mr. Lamas:

As Mayor of Boston, I write to serve official notification that the City of Boston challenges the population estimate issued in June of 2006 by the U.S. Census Bureau for the date of July 1, 2005. In preparing this challenge, we have considered your agency's Review Guide for Local Population Estimates.

Attached please find a concise memorandum outlining our argument for revising both the population estimate and the methodology by which your agency generates this estimate. Also attached are completed worksheets with the data and records requested.

In short, the process by which you generate population estimates fails to accommodate the level of detail that is available in our local records of dormitory construction, housing demolitions, and housing units gained through adaptive re-use of non-residential structures. The aggregate effect of these incomplete analyses is the erroneous indication that Boston is experiencing a significant annual loss of population.

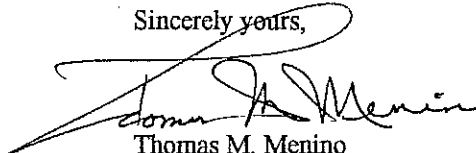
History supports my analysis of your methodology's shortcomings and deepens my concern about their continued application. During the 1990s, the Census Bureau's annual estimates indicated population loss in Boston for almost every individual year. But your official enumeration of population for the year 2000 demonstrated that Boston's population increased 2.6% during the decade.

Census Bureau miscalculations are troublesome because they are read by drivers of the local economy as signs that the sky is falling – when in fact it is not. This misperception affects investment levels and has a negative impact on the city's vitality.

I sincerely believe that our evidence will demonstrate that a higher population estimate is indeed warranted. I hope that you will review this challenge and the supporting evidence and attempt to resolve this disputed population estimate either through an informal procedure or through a formal challenge hearing process.

I am confident that we share the goal of determining the most accurate population estimate for Boston. My staff and I look forward to working cooperatively with you over the course of the next few months to resolve this challenge.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas M. Menino
Mayor of Boston